

REMARKS

The drawings were objectionable because the same reference characters were used to designate different parts. To correct this, the reference characters used in Fig. 11 have been given a prime mark. Correspondingly, the specification has been amended to add a prime mark to the reference characters used in Fig. 11. The reference characters used in Fig. 12 have been given a double prime mark, and the specification has been amended accordingly. Therefore, the applicant requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 4-11 are pending. Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled. Claims 6 and 7 have been withdrawn. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 2, 4, 5, and 8-11 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Several amendments have been made to the claims to address each of the specific issues set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the office action. The claims are now considered to be fully definite, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 5, and 8-11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of the patent to Vaughan *et al.* The applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection for the following reasons.

First, it would not have been obvious to combine the patent to Vaughan *et al.* with the admitted prior art of Fig. 11. The reason given in the office action for the prior art combination is to "reduce the cost of manufacturing the trim and glass run attachment structure." However, the combination proposed in the office action increases the cost of manufacture because, in the combination, a single integral glass run 31 is replaced by two parts. That is, in the prior art

combination, the unitary glass run is replaced by a separate trim and glass run, thus increasing the number of parts required, which increases costs.

Second, the patent to Vaughan *et al.* discloses glass run that is not fitted in a U-shaped channel and is not held in place by a locking protrusion strip. The glass run of Vaughan *et al.* is clamped in place by the surrounding molding 24, and such an attachment fails to provide accurate positioning of the glass run with respect to the window. Thus, the structure of Vaughan *et al.* is a fundamentally different type of structure from that of the structure of Fig. 11, which shows a glass run that is fitted in a groove of the door frame. One important purpose of the structure of the Vaughan *et al.* patent is to provide a sub assembly that can be fitted to the vehicle body at one time, to lower manufacturing costs (see column 2, lines 52-58). The installation of the sub-assembly is shown in Fig. 15. Such an installation cannot be performed if the glass run is fitted in a U-shaped attachment groove, such as that shown in Fig. 11, since the outer wall of the groove would block the installation. Note that there is no outer wall or flange of the door to support the glass run 26 of the patent to Vaughan *et al.* Thus, combining the structure of Fig. 11 with the patent to Vaughan *et al.* would defeat the purpose of the patent to Vaughn *et al.* and would therefore not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Third, combining the patent of Vaughan *et al.* would destroy the advantage of the Vaughan *et al.* structure that the glass run need not be attached to a weld flange. See column 2, lines 9-11 of Vaughan *et al.*, which says the following:

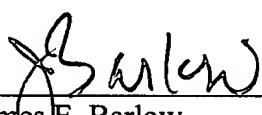
"Therefore, one advantage of the present invention over the prior art is that the added step of attaching the glass run channel to the weld flange is not required."

In the structure of Fig. 11, it is required to attach the glass run to a weld flange. Column 2, lines 19-30 of Vaughan *et al.* says that one advantage of avoiding attachment of the glass run to a weld flange is that only a few areas along the weld flange require critical dimensional tolerances, which lowers costs. However, in the structure of Fig. 11, the glass run must be attached to a weld flange, which forms part of the U-shaped groove. Thus, the dimensions of the entire weld flange of the structure of Fig. 11 are critical, and combining the structure of Fig. 11 with the patent to Vaughan *et al.* would defeat the advantage of the patent to Vaughn *et al.* and would thus not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, the applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the forgoing, the applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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